

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| | 10/600,967 | HARA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Sam Chuan C. Yao | 1733 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 04-24-06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17 and 25-29.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/20/03, 2/13/04, 5/4/24/06
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



SAM CHUAN YAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 18-24 directed to transmission belts non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 18-24 have been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While: a) it is a common practice in the art to form a toothed type transmission belt by building up various belt components onto a radially expandable 1st molding member, and then to expand the 1st mold so that the belt components are engaged against a 2nd molding member which has a plurality of alternating grooves as exemplified in the teachings of Wood (US 5,733,399; abstract; figures 8A-8B), b) Redmond, Jr. (US 4,066,732) teaches radially compressing a wear-resistant reinforcing fabric layer against a profiled mold having alternating grooves so as "*to insure that the inner driving surface of the belt conforms to the profile of the mold*" and then building up remaining components of a transmission belt (abstract; col. 1 lines 1-13, lines 42-64; col. 3 lines 1-20; figures 1-3), and c) it is also old in the art to mold a fabric facing layer and a compression rubber layer using a pair of molding members; and then to transfer them to another molding device where they are buildup and molded with remaining components of a transmission as exemplified in the teachings of Geist et al (US 3,250,653; col. 1 lines 11-20; col. 2 lines 1-72; figures 1-16), there is no suggestion in the art to form a compression layer against a mold having alternating grooves to form a

1st belt sleeve component; to form, separately from the 1st sleeve component, a 2nd belt sleeve component and then joining the separately formed 1st and 2nd belt sleeves to form a transmission belt as recited the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam Chuan C. Yao whose telephone number is (571) 272-1224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday with second Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Sam Chuan C. Yao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

Scy
05-30-06